

To: Attorney General Martha Coakley and
Holy Family Hospital President Lester Schindel

From: Linda Soucy



RE: Holy Family Hospital/Department of Public Health/Attorney General Public
Hearing for the Cerberus Transaction

Date: June 29, 2010

My name is Linda Soucy and I have lived in Methuen for the past 28 years. I have been a member of Holy Family's Community Benefits Board for the past 2 years. Three of my four children and two of my three grandchildren were born at Holy Family Hospital. I have also been a patient here as well. I am founder of the Methuen Arlington Neighborhood, Inc.; a non profit organization that serves over 200 families, of which 83% are low to moderate income and is located in a very diverse neighborhood.

I would first like to state that I am in support of the sale of Holy Family, which is part of Caritas, to Cerberus. Holy Family Hospital is very important to the City of Methuen and its' residents. It has over 1,500 employees, of which many are my neighbors. They live in Methuen and work in Methuen. They rent or own a home in Methuen. I feel this sale will also generate much needed tax revenue for the City of Methuen. We need to keep Holy Family Hospital in Methuen, we need a local hospital, and we need to keep people of this community employed during these hard economic times.

I am already delighted with the work on the new emergency room. This was very needed in order to keep people coming to Holy Family. We are looking forward to having Holy Family continue to deliver high quality, low cost health care to the residents of Methuen through this sale. I think these are great reasons to approve this sale.

My question is why is the agreement to keep Holy Family Hospital open and current staff and management on board for only 3 years? I think it would be in the best interest of the people of Methuen and staff to be a 5 year agreement. I also would like to know for sure that the money raised by the foundation will be kept separate from Cerberus and that they will continue with their mission to help local charities. I also feel that there are more screenings that can be done for the low income families of this city through outreach. I know how many support groups and how much educational programming is already done by Holy Family Hospital and believe we can expand upon this.

Thank you for your time to hear the viewpoint of a resident of the city.

*Having Holy Family fail is not
beneficial to Methuen, Lawrence
or Merrimack Valley Residents*